

terminology has been used to a large extent, the old and better known names have been inserted in brackets wherever it was thought necessary to avoid confusion. Black-faced type and italics are used to indicate and emphasize the chief headings and the particular part or organ under consideration. The work is worthy of recommendation to all.

F. E. B.

**Alveolodental Pyorrhea.** By Charles C. Bass, M. D., Professor of Experimental Medicine, and Foster M. Johns, M. D., Instructor in the Laboratories of Clinical Medicine at the Tulane University Medical College, New Orleans, La. Octavo volume of 167 pages, with 42 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1915. Cloth, \$2.50 net.

This book has been written with the distinct purpose of placing before the profession the theory that pyorrhea alveolaris is caused by the animal parasite or protozoan known as the endameba buccalis and that ipecac or its alkaloid emetine hydrochloride is the specific remedy for the disease.

Smith and Barrett of Philadelphia were the first to promulgate these views, but they were much less emphatic in their statements than are the authors of the book under review.

The interest which has been created in the subject by the researches of the above-named investigators and the authors of this book is very great indeed and the profession everywhere, both medical and dental, are asking if these statements are true.

There is only one way to prove the truth or falsity of these claims and that is by practical tests conducted along scientific lines. Many practitioners at the present time are employing ipecac and emetine in an empirical manner and are making many absurd claims as to their specific action.

The claim of the authors that the disease is "practically universal" and that "all sooner or later lose their teeth" (from this cause) "if they live long enough" are statements made without sufficient evidence. Carefully compiled statistics covering many thousands of examinations would be necessary to prove this contention.

That ipecac or emetine is a specific in this disease is also lacking in proof. At least a sufficient number of cases have not as yet been published to establish the fact.

The presence of endameba buccalis in the mouth does not necessarily mean that the individual has pyorrheal alveolaris, nor that the presence of this organism in a pyorrhea pocket is proof that it is the cause of the suppurative process. Bacteria of many varieties are found in the same pus. Why then, single out the endameba and insist that it is the specific cause?

The reviewer has found the endameba (living, motile specimens) in the scrapings from healthy gums, from the dorsum of the tongue, from the discharges from the nose, from the discharges of a dento-alveolar abscess involving the antrum, and also from the accumulation of food debris at the margins of the gums. Craig has also found it in dental caries. But in all of these cases prodigious numbers of bacteria of various forms were also found.

The book, however, is well worth reading, albeit there are many statements in it in relation to dental pathology particularly, to which the dental profession will take issue.

The name "Alveolodental Pyorrhea" adds another term of designation to an already overburdened nomenclature of this disease, and we are not sure that it is any better than those now in use. We question the advisability of using so many drawings of "pathologic conditions" when photographs would have been so much better and would have eliminated the personal equation entirely.

J. S. M.

## SOCIETY REPORTS

### FRESNO COUNTY.

The regular meeting of the Fresno County Medical Society was held September 7th, at the offices of Drs. Trowbridge and Craycroft. A good attendance of members, from our own and adjoining counties, was present to listen to the following program:

"Operative Treatment of Spinal Tuberculosis," by Dr. Walter I. Baldwin of San Francisco, and "Nervous Affections of Children," by Dr. Harold W. Wright of San Francisco. Dr. Baldwin exhibited a number of instructive X-rays and one very interesting and successful case. Dr. Wright urged the importance of careful diagnosis and treatment in order to save children who are out of the ordinary from being classed as hopelessly below par. He also urged the importance of systematic training for all defectives, no matter if only slight progress can be made. Both papers were greatly appreciated and were of distinct value to the society.

CLIFFORD D. SWEET,  
Assistant Secretary.

### ORANGE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The September meeting of the Orange County Medical Association was held on September 7, 1915, with a fairly good attendance.

Dr. Granville MacGowan gave a fine paper on "Local Anesthesia."

After the meeting a social lunch was enjoyed.

R. A. CUSHMAN, Secretary.

### PLACER COUNTY.

The September meeting of the Placer County Medical Society was held Saturday evening, September 11, 1915, in the Masonic Hall, Colfax. There were present the following members and visitors: Members—Drs. Fay, Mackay, Couture, Miner, Sawyer, C. P. Jones, Bush, McCullough, H. T. Rooney, Peers. Visitors—Drs. J. T. Cox and F. R. Fairchild, Sacramento; J. L. Rollins and C. D. Durand, Colfax.

Dr. Miner and Dr. Jones reported cases.

Dr. Thos. J. Cox, Sacramento, read a paper entitled, "Surgery of Bones." Discussed by Drs. Fairchild, Mackay, Sawyer and Cox.

Dr. F. R. Fairchild then read a paper on "X-ray in Surgical Diagnosis," illustrated by means of lantern slides. Discussed by Drs. Cox, Bush, Peers and Fairchild.

After adjournment refreshments were served by the local physicians.

The next meeting will be held in October in Auburn.

ROBERT A. PEERS, Secretary.

John Emmett Thompson; Western Reserve University, Ohio, 1888; aged 57; Oculist and Aurist; Fellow of the American Medical Association; for many years on the staff of Mt. Zion Hospital, San Francisco; member of many fraternal and benevolent organizations; died from typhoid fever at his home in Berkeley, California, August 26, 1915.

### PROCEEDINGS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

During the month of August, 1915, the following meetings were held:

#### Section on Medicine, Tuesday, August 3d.

1. The Wassermann Test in Newborn Infants. Langley Porter. Discussed by E. Vectors (who reported a series of 129 Wassermann tests on pla-